

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claim 1 has been improved to clarify some different aspects of the claimed invention. Support for the changes to claim 1 can be found, for example, in page 22, lines 17-21, page 23 and page 27, lines 6-19, of the specification.

Claims 40 and 41 have been rewritten to address the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

The Office has rejected the previous claims; however, in view of the amendments made to the claims, and for the reasons set forth below, the Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8-17, 21-30 and 34-41 are rejected as being anticipated by Schaefer, et al. ("Schaefer"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0124252. In section 8 (from middle of page 4 to top of page 5) of the August 23, 2006 Office Action, the Office asserts that Schaefer discloses the claimed monitoring system or method recited in claims 1, 14, 27 and 40.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above-noted rejection. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that Schaefer neither teaches nor suggests Applicants' invention as it is defined in the claims.

One of the features clearly missing from Schaefer is the ability to detect special event content from within a plurality of broadcast content streams based on "a content

change in at least one of said detectable content attributes". See, e.g., independent claim 1.

In Schaefer, the viewer is provided with a set top box programmed to receive triggers (such as ATVEF triggers). See Schaefer, page 7, paragraph [0068]. Once a trigger is received, the set top box compares the trigger with the user profile to determine whether the user desires the "information alerts" associated or included with the trigger. See Schaefer, page 5, paragraph [0043]. In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, the set top box of Schaefer cannot sense a **content change** in the detectable content attributes of broadcast content streams, not even in triggers. Therefore, Schaefer require, in addition to the set top box, a trigger-inserter hardware or software located at a master control location at a head-end to create triggers that are recognizable by the set top boxes located at the user premises. The triggers allow the set top box to identify certain content as "information alerts". Thus, unlike the claimed invention, Schaefer depends on and requires additional components, such as the trigger-inserter hardware or software, to help the set top boxes identify certain content as "information alerts". In addition, the set top box of Schaefer must interoperate with the "information alerts" generation system; otherwise, the set top boxes will not be able to differentiate the "information alerts" from other contents.

Based on the foregoing reasons, Schaefer is distinguished from the inventions claimed in claims 1, 14, 27 and 40, and are therefore believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 should be withdrawn. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-39 and 41-42 should also be allowable at least based on their dependence from claims 1, 14, 27 and 40.

U.S. Patent 6,668,278 to Yen, et al. is cited in rejecting claims 5-7, 18-20, 31-32 and 42 to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the above-mentioned deficiencies in Schaefer.

Accordingly, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to advance the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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